

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5586
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Terrorism to be fought on wider scale' appearing in the Indian Express dated April 2, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether terrorist activities in the country have increased during 1999-2000; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate terrorism from the effected areas in the country during 2000-2001 ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (d) Government is aware of the news item. Efforts on the part of Pak sponsored terrorist outfits to induct mercenaries from across the border into Jammu and Kashmir are continuing. However, information available with the Government does not indicate any significant spurt in the incidents of terrorist violence in the State, except in the months of August and September, 1999. Interrogation of various terrorists arrested recently in Punjab has revealed that fresh efforts have been made to forge linkages between Punjab militants and fundamentalist groups active in Jammu and Kashmir at the behest of Pak ISI. Militant activities in Manipur and Tripura have shown an increase in the recent past. The situation in Assam and Nagaland has shown a distinct improvement. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have witnessed some increase in left wing extremist violence recently. The Government is continuing with its four pronged strategy to counter terrorist and separatist violence in Jammu and Kashmir by deepening of the democratic process, accelerating economic development, isolating foreign mercenaries and terrorists and playing a pro-active role to neutralize them. Efforts are being made to engage the underground outfits in the North-East in a dialogue. Three additional India Reserve battalions are being made available to the North-Eastern States. The Government has also announced an ambitious programme for the socio-economic development of the North-Eastern States and Sikkim. Trade with neighbouring countries is also going to be thrust area of development for the North-East region. The Action Plans received from Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa for tackling the menace of left-wing extremism have been recommended to the Planning Commission.